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Agenda item 5
**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East
Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied
Palestinian Territory**

Security Council
Seventy-third year

**Identical letters dated 5 July 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President
of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council**

I write to you in follow up to previous letters to draw urgent attention to the imminent threat of forcible transfer facing the Palestinian Bedouin communities of Khan al-Ahmar — Abu al-Helu and Abu Nawar in the sensitive "E-1 area" of the West Bank, north-east of Occupied East Jerusalem.

In recent days, Israel, the occupying Power, has begun implementation of its plans to forcibly remove both the inhabitants and civilian and livelihood structures in this area to clear the way for its plans for the illegal construction and expansion of settlements in the area. These cruel and destructive measures not only are in grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention, thus constituting war crimes, but also threaten to completely sever East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank, destroying whatever remains of the physical viability of the two-State solution.

For years, Israel has been advancing its plans to forcibly transfer and ethnically cleanse the Bedouin population of Khan al-Ahmar, 53 per cent of whom are children and 95 per cent of whom are Palestine refugees registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The known purpose of such plans is to facilitate the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements in the area, in grave breach of international law and numerous United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution 2334 (2016). Yesterday, the Israeli occupying forces, using bulldozers and other military machinery, began destroying all access routes in Khan al-Ahmar — Abu al-Helu, which is home to more than 180 civilians. At least 35 Palestinians were injured owing to the use of force by Israeli soldiers against the defenceless civilians protesting this illegal and provocative action that is traumatizing the entire community.

Faced with the occupying Power's ongoing threats against and cyclical demolition of the homes and schools of the Khan al-Ahmar community, we have repeatedly appealed to the international community to address this critical matter.



Regrettably, in the absence of concrete international action, the occupying Power remains undeterred, persisting unabated with its crimes in full view of the world, without any fear of consequence.

The flagrant and systematic nature of these crimes has been on full display, as, on 24 May, the Israeli "Supreme Court" approved the demolition and transfer of the entire community of Khan al-Ahmar — Abu al-Helu for the purpose of constructing thousands of new units in the illegal "Ma'ale Adummim" and "Kfar Adummim" settlements, effectively endorsing a war crime. According to the Israeli plan, the community will likely be forcibly relocated to an area adjacent to a garbage dump in Abu Dis, bereft of agricultural land on which these pastoral families have subsisted all their lives.

This was followed, on 3 July, by the issuance of land confiscation notices by the occupying Power to residents of Khan al-Ahmar. Nearly all of the Khan al-Ahmar community's structures are slated for demolition, including a primary school, built in 2009 by the Italian aid organization Vento di Terra and which serves a total of 170 children from five different Bedouin communities in the East Jerusalem area.

Non-violent protests by the local residents of the Khan Al-Ahmar community, as well as by Palestinians from other nearby villages, joined by Israeli and international human rights and peace activists who gathered in the area to protect the community, were met with brutal violence by the occupying Power, resulting in the injury of 35 protesters.

In the meantime, since 1 July, at least another 11 such incidents of demolition and forced displacement have occurred. Fifty-nine Palestinians, including 37 children, have been displaced and more than 200 other civilians have been affected. The Abu Nawar Bedouin community, also located in the sensitive "E-1" area, has been the most deeply affected, following the demolition of 19 structures, including 9 homes, and the consequent forced displacement of 51 civilians, including 33 children. In this regard, it should be noted that Abu Nawar is among 46 Bedouin communities, comprising 8,100 people, in the central West Bank that are at imminent risk of forcible transfer.

Beyond the sheer immorality and illegality of such acts that aim to replace the indigenous population with colonial settlers, the destructive impact of such Israeli violations, amounting to blatant ethnic cleansing, both on these vulnerable Palestinian communities and on the situation on the ground is immense. This is starkly reflected in the deteriorating socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions and deepening anger and frustration among the Palestinian civilian population living under this more than a half-century of occupation.

The Palestinian people feel, rightly, that they have been abandoned. Seventy years after the creation of Israel and the dispossession and displacement of Palestinians in the Nakba, Palestinian families continue to be expelled from their homes and forcibly transferred from their lands, further deepening this injustice. In this regard, it should be noted that the Khan al-Ahmar and Abu Nawar Bedouin communities, like most of the other Bedouin communities in the central West Bank, are refugees who were expelled from their lands in the Naqab desert during the Nakba and are facing displacement yet again. For years, these communities have insisted on their right to return to their original lands in what is now southern Israel, a right that has been denied to them and to all Palestine refugees, in violation of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions.

The continuation of these illegal Israeli policies and practices are yet further proof of the ill intentions of this foreign colonial occupation and of the Israeli Government's total rejection of the human rights of the Palestinian people and of the

two-State solution. The ultimate aim of Israel, the occupying Power, in effecting the forcible transfer of these Bedouin communities, is to advance its so-called "E-1" settlement plan in order to create a continuum of settlements between the illegal "Ma'ale Adummim" settlement and Occupied East Jerusalem, severing the West Bank in half, and putting the final nail in the coffin of the two-State solution. In parallel, Israel is also getting closer to enacting so-called "legislation" to formally annex parts of the West Bank, in flagrant defiance of international law, including the prohibition on the acquisition of territory by force, destroying all efforts aimed at securing a comprehensive, just and lasting peace.

Israel must be held accountable for all of these crimes, without exception. It is outrageous that the occupying Power should believe that it can persist with its illegal colonization of Palestine, including destruction, theft and confiscation of Palestinian lands and properties, construction and expansion of both settlements and the Wall and forcible transfer of Palestinian communities, in full view of the international community, with zero accountability. It is inconceivable that, in the twenty-first century, an entire community can be expelled from their homes by an illegal occupation.

In addition, the Palestinian civilian population continues to endure attacks and incitement by extremist and terrorist Israeli settlers in the West Bank, no doubt provoked to such violence by right-wing Israeli government officials, who routinely incite against the Palestinian people.

While it is nearly impossible to document every violation, the examples below provide a glimpse of violations being endured daily by Palestinians as a result of settler violence.

On 19 June, in reference to Ali Dawabsha, the 18 month-old Palestinian baby whose house was torched by Israeli settlers in the middle of the night on 31 July 2015, resulting in the killing of his parents and the severe burning of Ali, extremist Israeli settlers chanted "Where is Ali? Ali's dead!" and "Ali is on the grill!" to a Palestinian crowd waiting outside an Israeli courthouse.

On 29 June, settlers from the illegal "Itmar" settlement burned dozens of olive trees on Palestinian lands in the area of Bayt Furik in the West Bank, under the protection of the Israeli occupation forces.

On 3 July, Elor Azaria, the Israeli soldier who in March 2016 shot dead an injured Palestinian man as he lay motionless on the ground, was invited by extremist Israeli settlers to the site of the shooting in Hebron and was greeted by cheering and toasting.

Against this backdrop of criminal activity in the West Bank, Israel also continues its aggression against the Gaza Strip, causing casualties to mount. The continued unlawful use of force against peaceful Palestinian protesters partaking in the "Great Return March" has raised the total number of Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupying forces since the launch of the protests, on 30 March 2018, to more than 140 people and the total number of injured to more than 15,200 people, including more than 4,000 injured by live ammunition. Among the casualties were many innocent children, including 19 killed.

The names of those killed in the period since our last letter include Yasser Abu al-Naja, age 11; Muhammad al-Hamaydeh, age 24; Osama Abu Khater, age 29; Ahmed Ziyad Tawfiq, age 21; Sabri Ahmed Abu Khdeir, age 24; Mohammed Ghassan Abu Daqa, age 22; and Abdelfattah Abu Azzam, age 17. Moreover, Mahmoud Majed Gharabli, age 16, succumbed to wounds sustained from Israeli sniper fire as he took part in the protests on 14 May.

Successive declarations of Israeli officials over recent weeks constitute open admissions that the killing of unarmed Palestinian protesters was not an oversight by soldiers but rather was the result of clear instructions and intent to shoot and kill. In this regard, we urge the Commission of Inquiry established by the Human Rights Council to identify those officials who sanctioned open fire regulations against civilians, including children, in violation of international norms.

In view of the grave humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where the health-care system has reached "the breaking point", as emphasized by numerous United Nations experts, including the Special Rapporteur on the right to health, we appeal to all States to continue their vital humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. We continue to stress the importance of UNRWA in this regard and reiterate our gratitude to all countries and organizations that participated in the UNRWA Pledging Conference on 25 June and have responded to the unprecedented financial deficit being faced by the Agency, providing additional funding or accelerating their contributions since the start of the year. We urge continued attention and generosity in the light of this critical situation and the far-reaching impact of any suspension of services on any of the Agency's fields of operation.

In this fifty-first year of Israel's colonial occupation of our people and land, we continue to call upon the international community to assume its long-overdue legal, political and moral responsibilities to protect the Palestinian people and to hold Israel accountable for its grave violations of international law, United Nations resolutions and the national and human rights of the Palestinian people. Faced with the forced dispossession and displacement of our vulnerable and defenceless civilians, including our Bedouin communities, and their constant repression and suffering at the hands of this illegal occupation, we appeal for action, including by the Security Council, to finally bring an end to this injustice and truly give peace a chance to prevail.

This letter is in follow-up to our 640 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 11 June 2018 (A/ES-10/788-S/2018/557), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Fedá Abdelhady-Nasser
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Security Council**Distr.: General
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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem
and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-third year

**Identical letters dated 17 July 2018 from the Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the
President of the Security Council**

I am compelled to write to you once again to draw your attention to the ongoing critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and more specifically, to the grave reality faced by Palestinian civilians as a direct result of the Israeli military occupation.

Israeli occupying forces carried out air strikes across the Gaza Strip on 13 July and continued them overnight, culminating on 14 July in Israel's largest daytime air strike campaign in the besieged enclave since its 2014 aggression on the territory that killed more than 2,200 Palestinians.

Two Palestinian children, Amir al-Nimra, age 15, and Louay Kaheil, age 16, were killed by an Israeli missile as they were playing on the roof of the Katiba building, a large, unoccupied and unfinished concrete structure in the heart of Gaza City located next to a park often visited by Palestinian families during the summertime. Amir and Louay were best friends, described as "like twin brothers", who grew up on the same street in central Gaza. Louay was killed by a hit to the head and back and Amir died as a result of shrapnel puncturing his entire body.

Heavy shelling by Israeli warplanes in various areas in Gaza also resulted in injuries to at least 25 other Palestinians and damage to ambulances and civilian structures, including a mosque and an arts and crafts centre. Bombs caused loud explosions in civilian areas, clearly intended to further terrorize the civilian population.

Such a brutal and criminal campaign against the population of Gaza and Israel's deliberate targeting and killing of Palestinian children are nothing new, following instead a pattern of wilful killings of Palestinian civilians, including children, throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, with total impunity.

Indeed, the cold-blooded killings of Amir and Louay are a tragic reminder of the murder by Israeli air strikes four years ago yesterday, on 16 July 2014, of nine



children, including four brothers and cousins of the Baker family, as they were playing on the beach in Gaza City.

Israel's ongoing wilful killing of Palestinian civilians and its cruel and callous disregard for human life were also demonstrated during the "Great Return March" protests in Gaza on 13 July, as the occupying Power continued its vicious slaughter of defenceless peaceful protesters, fatally wounding two Palestinians, Othman Rami Hillis, age 15, and Muhammad Nasir Shurab, age 20, and injuring more than 100, including 65 by live ammunition. This brings the total number of Palestinians killed since 30 March to nearly 150, including 22 children, and the total number of injured to approximately 15,300.

Here we recall that Palestinian civilians in Gaza are protesting against the unbearable conditions that the Palestinian people have been facing for the past 70 years, including 70 years of dispossession, a 51-year occupation and a more than 11-year illegal and inhumane blockade.

As Palestinians in Gaza maintain their protest against this brutal blockade, Israel's morally depraved response has been to tighten the blockade and exacerbate the collective punishment of the Palestinian civilian population even further.

On 9 July, the Netanyahu Government decided to seal off the Kerem Shalom crossing, the only commercial crossing of goods in and out of Gaza, cutting off vital supplies and banning all exports from Gaza, putting thousands of jobs at risk, causing prices of essential materials to surge and compounding the devastating humanitarian situation already rampant in the Gaza Strip, where 49 per cent of Palestinians are unemployed. Of the goods that would normally enter Gaza, 55 per cent are now being denied entry under the new restrictions, including construction materials, furniture, wood, electronics, fabric, clothing, blankets and generators. Among the imports banned by Israel are truckloads of building materials for United Nations agencies designated for education, health and water, sanitation and hygiene projects.

According to Chris Gunness, a spokesperson for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), these Israeli restrictions "can be expected to have profound and far reaching consequences for already desperate civilians" and will lead to an increase in demand for UNRWA services. In this regard, we appeal to all States to continue their vital humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, especially during this period of crisis in which Gaza is heading towards complete economic and social collapse, and to increase their support to UNRWA, which, besides humanitarian aid, stands for hope and respect for rights and dignity, which is so crucial given the absence of a solution and the growing despair and uncertainty about the future.

Against this backdrop of criminal activity in Gaza, there is also a continuing trend of attacks and incitement by extremist and terrorist Israeli settlers in the West Bank. While it is nearly impossible to document every violation, the examples below provide just a glimpse of the types of violations that the Palestinian people are enduring daily as a result of settler violence.

On 10 July, in full view and under the protection of Israeli occupying forces, extremist Israeli settlers blocked an ambulance carrying a Palestinian patient in Al-Khalil (Hebron). On the same day, extremist Israeli settlers escorted by Israeli occupying forces stormed the Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem, the latest in a series of about 100 attacks carried out by settlers against the mosque in the past two months. So-called terrorist "price tag" attacks have also continued to terrorize the Palestinian civilian population, including the spraying of anti-Palestinian racist graffiti, the puncturing of car tyres, the uprooting of hundreds of olive trees and countless cases of harassment and assault against Palestinian civilians.

We reiterate our condemnation of these heinous crimes and continue to hold the Government of Israel responsible for the violence sustained by innocent civilians as well as the culture of hate and violence that it continues to foster through the imposition of its endless, illegal policies and practices, which include the transfer of illegal settlers to illegal settlements throughout the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem.

We call again for immediate measures to hold accountable all settlers committing crimes against the Palestinian people. Impunity for Israeli settlers cannot continue to be the norm, and the international community must demand that Israel uphold its obligations to investigate all such crimes and hold the perpetrators accountable. Terrorism in all its forms must be unequivocally condemned and ceased.

Here, we recall with sorrow the heinous crime perpetrated three years ago in the same month of July against the Dawabsha family in Duma, when a group of terrorist Israeli settlers threw firebombs into the family's home, burning alive Ali, an 18-month-old baby, as he slept in his bed, and severely burning his mother and father, Reham and Sa'ad, who later died from their wounds. We highlight that the Israeli Government has systematically failed to redress the grievance and to hold the responsible Israeli terrorist settlers accountable for this attack, instead deciding this morning to release one of the terrorist settlers suspected of planning the terror attack.

Israel's systematic and deliberate campaign of brutalizing and terrorizing innocent Palestinians is part and parcel of its overall colonial strategy to achieve ethnic purity and prolong the occupation and its ongoing system of ethnic cleansing that ultimately seeks to superimpose all of "Greater Israel" on all of historic Palestine and eradicate any hopes of return for Palestine refugees.

While actions on the ground have revealed for decades Israel's colonial and discriminatory project, through its attempts to expel and replace the Palestinian population and Judaize space, on 16 July the Israeli Knesset deliberated on the final draft of so-called "legislation" that would define Israel as "the nation-state of the Jewish people", explicitly endorsing apartheid and colonialism by establishing ethnic discrimination and racist acts against Palestinians as a constitutional mandate and enshrining the ethnic supremacy of Jews over Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinian residents of Jerusalem. This so-called "law" would establish ideological beliefs as official policy and require discrimination against Palestinians in the fields of citizenship, property and land, language and culture, in explicit violation of peremptory norms of international law, international humanitarian law, the prohibition against colonialism and the most basic fundamental principles of human rights and democracy that staunchly oppose racism.

As long as the world remains silent, Israel's brutal colonial and ethnic cleansing campaign against innocent Palestinians will only continue. We urge all members of the international community, as well as all relevant organizations, to intervene immediately and to exhibit the moral and political courage necessary to put an end to Israel's unlawful and immoral behaviour, including the illegal occupation of Palestinian land and the suffocating blockade of Gaza, in blatant violation of the occupying Power's obligations under international law, and to put an end to Israel's long-standing impunity for international crimes.

We also reiterate our call for the protection of the Palestinian people, for ensuring the safety and well-being of a defenceless civilian population being held captive under a more than half-century occupation. Failure to provide protection for the Palestinian people will lead to further escalation and tragically result in more bloodshed.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 641 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 5 July 2018 (A/ES-10/790-S/2018/668), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Riyad Mansour**
Ambassador, Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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General Assembly**Tenth emergency special session**

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**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East
Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied
Palestinian Territory****Security Council****Seventy-third year****Identical letters dated 27 July 2018 from the Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the
President of the Security Council**

I write to urgently draw your attention to the critical situation in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, due to Israel's endless provocations and illegal actions against the Palestinian people and their holy sites in Occupied East Jerusalem, particularly the Haram al-Sharif, which houses the Aqsa Mosque.

Again, we are witnessing the same provocative actions against the holy sites in Occupied East Jerusalem, by Israel, the occupying Power, which are further fuelling already high tensions and continuing to destabilize the fragile situation on the ground. In this regard, today, Israeli occupying forces violently stormed the Aqsa Mosque compound, firing tear gas and stun grenades at Muslim worshippers gathered for Friday prayers, injuring nearly 40 Palestinians, including two of the Waqf guards. In addition, Israeli occupying forces arrested six Palestinians. Moreover, Israel took yet an additional dangerous and condemnable action in which it sealed off the Aqsa Mosque with iron chains, preventing Palestinian worshippers from entering to worship, which led to confrontations between Israeli occupying forces and Muslim worshippers.

This dangerous escalation coincides with the first anniversary of the Aqsa Mosque protests of July 2017, when tens of thousands of Palestinians prayed outside the compound for nearly two weeks, protesting against the new metal detectors installed by the Israeli occupying authorities. The latest illegal measures taken today by the Israeli occupying forces represent a clear demonstration of Israel's persistent policy of violating the historic status quo of the holy sites of the City, which has only served to aggravate religious sensitivities and tensions on the ground. Israel, the occupying Power, must respect the historic status quo and the sacredness of the holy site and cease all actions that are inflaming the situation and that risk exacerbating heightened religious sensitivities with potentially grave consequences.

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Israeli closures and measures regarding the Aqsa Mosque compound should not be seen as isolated events, but rather as part of broader Israeli policies to alter the character, status and demographics of Occupied East Jerusalem and transform it into a Jewish-only city. As such, what is taking place today cannot be divorced from other illegal policies and practices being carried out by Israel throughout the City and the rest of the West Bank, including its construction and expansion of settlements, home demolitions, forced evictions and the displacement of Palestinian families. Nor can it be divorced from the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip and the adoption of the so-called "Jewish nation-state law", which aims to intensify Israel's colonization, segregation and discrimination regime in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

We recall that the international community has rightly never recognized Israeli sovereignty over East Jerusalem and considers it occupied territory. We further reiterate that all illegal Israeli actions at the Haram al-Sharif and throughout the rest of Occupied East Jerusalem constitute violations of international law, including the numerous relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016), and General Assembly resolutions, including resolution ES-10/19, calling for a cessation of all policies and measures aimed at altering the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and calling for respect by the occupying Power of its obligations under international law, including the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, under which such actions are explicitly prohibited.

We therefore call upon the international community to condemn these illegal actions by Israel, the occupying Power, and to firmly demand that it immediately cease all measures and provocations that are violating the status quo of the holy sites of the City. Israel, the occupying Power, must respect the right of the Palestinian people to freely access the compound and the right of Muslims to worship at the compound without any interference whatsoever.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 642 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 17 July (A/ES-10/791-S/2018/710), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Riyad Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations